

# 20 YEARS OF DR WHO

## FIVE OF OUR SCIENCE-FICTION HEROES UNITE

NOT ONE Dr Who, but five of them battling the combined forces of their past most ferocious enemies!

That's the amazing scenario of **The Dr Who Special: The Five Doctors**, a 90-minute commemorative program which will screen around Australia this week on ABC-TV on Tuesday at 7.30.

The special program has been scheduled to screen in many other countries during December to an estimated audience of more than 98 million viewers.

The program was made to commemorate 20 years of adventures by TV's favorite science-fiction hero. Getting the five configurations of Dr Who into one story wasn't easy.

William Hartnell, the first Doctor, is dead. The Dr Who he played is recreated by Richard Hurndall.

The popular Tom Baker was unavailable when the program was made so a previously recorded episode which had not been screened was edited and fitted into this special story.

## THEY'RE FIGHTING THE COMBINED FORCES OF THEIR ARCH-ENEMIES



The program introduces the five persona of Dr Who by making the good Doctor victim of illusions.

By use of the cast available and shrewdly edited sequences from past episodes, the special becomes a parade of the characters most loved by Dr Who fans over two decades.

The program is a tribute to what has become the world's longest-running and most loved science-fiction series.

Fan clubs and appreciation societies abound in most of the 38 countries that screen the program.

In America when this special program was screened, viewers on more than 80 channels across the nation joined in singing happy birthday to the Doctor.

It is estimated that more than seven million singers took part.

Apart from five doctors, Dr Who has had nine producers since it first went to air on November 23, 1963. The present producer is debonair John Nathan-Turner.

• **FIVE FACES** of Dr Who in one show, from left: Richard Hurndall in the guise worn by the late William Hartnell, Peter Davison, Tom Baker, Jon Pertwee and Patrick Troughton.

Nathan-Turner's greatest problem is that the length of the program's run has resulted in many of the junior fans not being old enough to remember the beginnings and the events which sparked off many of the Doctor's trappings.

Another problem was presented by the seven-year run by Tom Baker, the record term so far as star of the series.

While older fans had accepted the convention that the Doctor could change shape and appearance, kids who had seen the same one for seven years had difficulty in accepting the switch to Peter Davison.

Now they'll have to accept a new change in 1984, with Colin Baker taking over the role.

— FRED ROBERTSON